

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a body which is contaminated with infectious prions, the method comprising:
contacting the body with a composition comprising a phenol and a soluble inorganic salt to effect a change in the three dimensional structure of the prion protein and to inactivate prions on the body, the phenol in the composition consisting solely of non-halogenated phenol.
2. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the phenol includes at least one of the group consisting of ~~p-chloro-m-xylanol~~, thymol, ~~triclosan~~, ~~4-chloro~~, ~~3-methylphenol~~, ~~pentachlorophenol~~, ~~hexachlorophene~~, ~~2,2-methyl-bis(4-chlorophenol)~~, *p*-phenylphenol, *o*-phenylphenol, and combinations thereof.
3. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~2~~3, wherein the ~~composition further includes at least one of~~ phenol comprises ~~*o*-phenylphenol and *o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol.~~
4. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The method of claim [3] 1, wherein the non-halogenated phenol is at a concentration of at least 0.005M.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-halogenated phenol is at a concentration of up to about 0.2M.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-halogenated phenol has a log P_c value of between 2 and 6.5.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the non-halogenated phenol has a log P_c value between 2 and 5.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the non-halogenated phenol has a log P_c value of at least 4.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition includes a phenol at a concentration of at least about 10%.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the composition includes a soluble inorganic salt.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a medical device which is contaminated with infectious prions, the method comprising:

contacting the medical device with a composition comprising a ~~non-~~
~~halogenated~~ phenol and a soluble inorganic salt to inactivate prions on the medical
5 device, the soluble inorganic salt including sodium chloride, the phenol in the
composition consisting solely of non-halogenated phenol.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the soluble inorganic salt comprises a sodium salt which is present at a concentration of at least 2% by weight.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a body which is contaminated with infectious prions, the method comprising:

contacting the body with a composition comprising a phenol to
inactivate prions on the body, the phenol ~~including~~ consisting of *o*-phenylphenol and
5 ~~*o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol~~ in a solution that includes brine.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the phenol complexes with the prions and precipitates.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the phenol has minimal solubility.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the phenol includes ~~at least one of~~ *o*-phenylphenol and ~~*o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol~~.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the body includes a surface and the method includes contacting the surface with the composition comprising the phenol to inactivate prions on the surface.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition includes ~~at least one of~~ *o*-phenylphenol and ~~*o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol~~.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a body which is contaminated with infectious prions, the method comprising:

providing a composition comprising at least one phenol, the composition comprising a phenol concentration of at least 0.005M and an inorganic salt which is present at a concentration of at least 2% by weight, the phenol including
5 at least one of the group consisting of ~~*p*-chloro-*m*-xylene~~; thymol; ~~triclosan~~; ~~4-chloro-3-methylphenol~~; ~~pentachlorophenol~~; ~~hexachlorophene~~; ~~2,2-methyl-bis(4-chlorophenol)~~; *p*-phenylphenol; 2,3-dimethylphenol; 3,5-dimethoxyphenol; 2,6-dimethoxyphenol; *o*-phenylphenol; *p*-tertiary-amylphenol; ~~*o*-benzyl-*p*-chlorophenol~~;
10 ~~*p*-chloro-*m*-cresol~~; *o*-cresol; *p*-cresol; ~~2,2-methylenebis(*p*-chlorophenol)~~; 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid; *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid; caffeic acid; protocatechuic acid; *p*-nitrophenol; 3-phenolphenol; 2,3-dimethoxyphenol; ~~2,2-methoxy-bis(4-chlorophenol)~~; and para-phenylphenol; and

contacting the body with the composition to effect a log reduction of at
15 least 4.1 for prions on the body.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the soluble inorganic salt is at a concentration of up to 5%.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant selected from the group consisting of sulphonic acids, sulfonates, and combinations thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of dodecylbenzene sulphonic acid, sodium C₁₄-C₁₆ sulfonate, and combinations thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an acidic sequestering agent.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a body which is contaminated with infectious prions, the method comprising:

contacting the body with a composition to inactivate prions on the body, the composition comprising a phenol, a cosolvent, water, and a surfactant
5 selected from the group consisting of sulphonic acids, sulfonates, and combinations thereof, the phenol in the composition consisting solely of non-halogenated phenol.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a body which is contaminated with infectious prions, the method comprising:

contacting the body with a composition to inactivate prions on the body, the composition consisting of a non-halogenated phenol comprising *o*-phenylphenol and ~~*o*-benzyl *p*-chlorophenol~~, a cosolvent, sodium chloride, water, and
5 a surfactant, the composition effecting a change in the three dimensional structure of the prion protein and inactivating prions on the body.